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usual vigor. Mechanical engineering has lost about 21 per cent. This is a study that should be stimulated by the war. In this work Professor Miller, head of the department, has undertaken for the U. S. Shipping Board the management of the schools for marine engine-room officers in the principal ports in the country.

#### WORK OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

UPON recommendation of the National Research Council Dr. Augustus Trowbridge, of Princeton University, and Professor Theodore Lyman, of Harvard University, have received commissions in the Signal Corps, U. S. A., for work in sound ranging. They have sailed for France to investigate conditions at the front in this subject. The sound ranging service which will be developed under their direction will utilize in the near future more than fifty men. Captain Horatio B. Williams is in charge of the development work in this country during Major Trowbridge's absence.

A meteorological service has been organized under the Signal Corps, U. S. A., in which about one hundred physicists and engineers will be engaged in aerological observational work under the direction of Dr. William H. Blair, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, who has received a commission of major and has sailed for France to investigate conditions abroad. Forecasting work for the American Expeditionary Force in France will be in charge of Mr. E. H. Bowie, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, who has likewise received a commission of major in the Signal Corps and is already on his way to France. Major Bowie will be assisted by Mr. R. Hanson Weightman, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, who has received a commission as lieutenant in the Signal Corps.

Professor Charles E. Mendenhall, of the University of Wisconsin, has received a commission of major in the Signal Corps, U. S. A., and has been placed in charge of the development of aeronautical instruments.

All of the work of these services, sound-ranging, meteorology and aeronautical instruments, is included within the scope of the Science and Research Division of the Signal Corps, which in accordance with a recent order

of the chief signal officer has been established and placed under the direction of the National Research Council, of which Major R. A. Millikan is the executive officer. The functions of this division of the Signal Corps are two-fold, namely: (1) to furnish personnel of the research sort to the other divisions when the situation warrants the assignment of men of this type to these divisions, and (2) to have a personnel of its own which maintains intimate contact with all research and development work in other divisions, and distributes research problems to university, industrial and governmental research laboratories with which it is associated. Similar, though in some cases less formal, relations have been established with other technical bureaus of the War and Navy Departments.

Upon request of the French High Commission a number of American physicists and chemists are being sent to France to assist in various war problems in which technically trained men are needed. Except in certain cases, the Interministerial Commission in Paris will assign them to work in university laboratories and in technical services of the government. Upon recommendation of the National Research Council the following men are receiving commissions in this connection and a number of them have already sailed for France:

Professor R. W. Wood, of Johns Hopkins University, major in the U. S. Signal Corps.

Messrs. Roy W. Chestnut, Leonard Loeb and Samuel Sewall, lieutenants in the U. S. Signal Corps.

Professor Edward Bartow, of the University of Illinois, major, and Professor Reston Stevenson, of the College of the City of New York, captain in the U. S. Sanitary Corps.

Messrs. Ralph L. Brown, of the University of Chicago, George Scatchard, of Columbia University, and Kirke W. Cushing, of Western Reserve University, lieutenants in the U. S. Sanitary Corps.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE trustees of Columbia University have dismissed Professor J. McKeen Cattell from the chair of psychology which he has held since 1891, on account of a letter which he